

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 23 on page 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Therefore, an ~~object of the present~~ aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to ~~provide~~ a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which the same stream of packets is transferred to a same transfer path while load distribution is carried out.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 1 on page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another ~~object of the present~~ aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to ~~provide~~ a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which only a minimum of a stream to be allocated to a transfer path that has been set to a transfer inhibition state is allocated to a different transfer path.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 on page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Still another ~~object of the present~~ aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to ~~provide~~ a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which allocation of a stream can be changed immediately after a change of a setting table.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 12 on page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Yet still another ~~object of the present~~ aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to ~~provide~~ a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which packet load distribution can be attained such that a deterioration rate can be minimized.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 17 on page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~It is an object of the present~~ An aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to ~~provide~~ a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which it can be prevented that a packet necessary to change of a transfer path is transferred to a network without any change of the transfer path.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 23 on page 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another ~~object of the present~~ aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to ~~provide~~ a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which a packet can be allocated to a transfer path by referring to two transfer paths at a maximum without referring to all transfer paths numbers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 2 on page 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Still another ~~object of the present~~ aspect consistent with the principles of the invention is directed to provide a datagram transferring apparatus and a datagram transferring method in which a packet can be allocated at a high speed in accordance with a load distribution ratio.